

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 15426 01 OF 02 251823Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 EURE-00 DHA-02 MCT-01
/094 W

-----251831Z 042175 /43

P R 251758Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3172
INFO USMISSION USUN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 15426

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, CSCE, PFOR, US, FR, UR
SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTER GUIRINGAUD INTERVIEW IN LE
FIGARO

SUMMARY: LE FIGARO MAY 25 PUBLISHED INTERVIEW WITH
FOREIGN MINISTER GUIRINGAUD DEVOTED PRINCIPALLY TO
QUESTIONS ON AFRICA AND THE EXPECTED VISIT OF BREZHNEV
TO FRANCE IN JUNE. HE ALSO COMMENTED ON PRESIDENT
CARTER PERSONALLY AND ON US VIEWS ON THE LEFT'S COMING
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PAGE 02 PARIS 15426 01 OF 02 251823Z

TO POWER IN FRANCE. END SUMMARY.

1. AMERICAN AND SOVIET ROLES IN AFRICA:
ASKED WHETHER THE US IS PRESENTLY
PURSUING A POLICY OF "DISENGAGEMENT" IN AFRICA,
GUIRINGAUD REPLIED THAT THE US IS NOT UNINTERESTED IN
AFRICA BUT IS NOW EMPLOYING "OTHER METHODS," AND AS AN

EXAMPLE HE MENTIONED AMBASSADOR YOUNG, WHOM HE CHARACTERIZED AS A VERY PLEASANT ("SYMPATHIQUE") PERSON, BUT WHOSE "STATEMENTS ARE NOT VERY COHERENT AND MAY SURPRISE CERTAIN ALLIES OF THE US." GUIRINGAUD WENT ON TO SAY THAT, NONETHELESS, THE US CONTINUES TO HAVE AN INTEREST IN THE PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF AFRICAN PROBLEMS, AND, AS PROOF OF THIS INTEREST, HE CITED PRESIDENT CARTER'S TELEGRAM OF APPROVAL SENT TO PRESIDENT GISCARD FOLLOWING THE LATTER'S DECISION TO PROVIDE LOGISTIC SUPPORT TO ZAIRE AND MOSCOW. DISCUSSING THE SOVIET ROLE IN AFRICA, GUIRINGAUD NOTED THAT MODERATE AFRICAN REGIMES ARE WORRIED ABOUT ATTEMPTS AT DESTABILIZATION IN THE AREA, PARTICULARLY AFTER THE EVENTS IN ANGOLA WHERE THERE WAS MASSIVE CUBAN INTERVENTION "WITH SOVIET SUPPORT." HE RECALLED THAT ALL THE REPRESENTATIVES AT THE RECENT FRANCO-AFRICAN CONFERENCE IN DAKAR HAD APPROVED GISCARD'S DECISION TO PROVIDE LOGISTIC SUPPORT TO ZAIRE, AND HOPED THAT THE SOVIETS REALIZED THAT THE FRENCH FEEL THAT "DETENTE IS GLOBAL, AND CANNOT BE ACHIEVED IN EUROPE AT THE EXPENSE OF STABILITY IN AFRICA."

2. BREZHNEV VISIT TO FRANCE:

GUIRINGAUD IMPLICITLY UNDERScored IMPORTANCE FRENCH ATTACH TO VISIT BY RECALLING THAT BREZHNEV'S LAST TRIP TO A WESTERN COUNTRY WAS ALSO TO FRANCE IN 1974. WHILE ENUMERATING COMMON FRANCO-SOVIET INTERESTS (DETENTE, PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, ECONOMIC EXCHANGES), HE ALSO NOTED THE CONTINUING DIFFERENCES, PARTICULARLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 PARIS 15426 01 OF 02 251823Z

IN THE AREA OF DISARMAMENT. "THE SOVIETS TALK A LOT ABOUT DISARMAMENT, BUT UP TO NOW THEY HAVE AGREED WITH THE US ONLY ON AN ACCORD WHICH LIMITS THEIR RESPECTIVE ARMS LEVELS." FRANCE IS IN FAVOR OF REAL DISARMAMENT WHICH, HE SAID, NECESSITATES A REDUCTION IN THE CURRENT LEVEL OF SOVIET AND AMERICAN NUCLEAR ARMAMENTS INFINITELY LARGER THAN THOSE OF FRANCE.

3. THE LEFT IN FRANCE AND ITALY.

QUERIED ABOUT AMERICAN ATTITUDES TOWARD THE POSSIBILITY OF LEFT GOVERNMENTS IN POWER IN FRANCE AND ITALY, GUIRINGAUD STATED THAT CONVERSATIONS HELD DURING THE LONDON ECONOMIC SUMMIT DID NOT CONFIRM THAT THE US ENVISAGES THE LEFT COMING TO POWER IN THESE TWO COUNTRIES. "NEITHER CARTER NOR HIS ADVISORS THINK THAT THE DIE IS CAST." WHILE THE US DOES NOT WANT TO INTERFERE IN INTERNAL FRENCH OR ITALIAN AFFAIRS, GUIRINGAUD REPEATED A STATEMENT, WHICH HE ATTRIBUTED TO PRESIDENT CARTER, THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND ANY EUROPEAN

GOVERNMENT DOMINATED BY THE COMMUNISTS "WOULD NOT BE
AS EASY AS BEFORE."

4. COMMENTS ON PRESIDENT CARTER:

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PAGE 01 PARIS 15426 02 OF 02 251814Z
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 15426

GUIRINGAUD, ASKED TO COMMENT ON PRESIDENT CARTER,
SAID THAT RECENT LONDON MEETINGS HAD CONFIRMED HIS
PREVIOUS IMPRESSIONS OF THE PRESIDENT AS A MAN OF
"GREAT INTELLIGENCE AND ABILITY" WHO HAS A GREAT
CAPACITY FOR LISTENING AND WHO EXHIBITS A FIRM WILL AND
EXCEPTIONAL RESOLUTION. HE CHARACTERIZED THE PRESIDENT
AS HAVING EXERCISED, IN THE COURSE OF A FEW WEEKS AND

IN A "SPECTACULAR" MANNER, A "DETERMINING INFLUENCE"
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PAGE 02 PARIS 15426 02 OF 02 251814Z

ON BOTH AMERICAN DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICY. HE CITED
PARTICULARLY PRESIDENT CARTER'S EMPHASIS ON HUMAN RIGHTS
NON-PROLIFERATION, AND REDUCTION IN ARMS LEVELS, GOALS
WHICH THE FRENCH SHARE.

5. OTHER TOPICS DISCUSSED INCLUDED THE GENEVA CONFER-
ENCE ON THE MIDDLE EAST AND FRENCH HOSTAGES BEING HELD
BY THE POLISARIO. WITH REGARD TO THE FORMER GUIRINGAUD
NOTED THAT RECENT DECLARATIONS BY BEGIN ARE SO OPPOSED
TO ARAB DEMANDS THAT HE "DID NOT SEE HOW PEACE COULD BE
ACHIEVED IN THE NEAR FUTURE." ON FRENCH HOSTAGES,
FONMIN CHARACTERIZED AS "ODIOUS" THE CONTENTION THAT
KIDNAPPED FRENCH CIVILIAN WORKERS, EMPLOYED BY A
MAURITANIAN COMPANY, ARE "MERCENARIES." HE ALSO
REITERATED STANDARD FRENCH COMMENTS ON BELGRADE, NOTING
THAT FRANCE WILL PUT ALL THREE BASKETS ON SAME LEVEL.
STILL, PUBLIC OPINION IS MOST INTERESTED IN HUMAN
RIGHTS. AND DISSIDENT MOVEMENTS HAVE SHOWN THAT THE
FINAL ACT HAS NOT BEEN WITHOUT INFLUENCE ON THE
BEHAVIOR OF STATES, PARTICULARLY IN THE EASTERN EUROPEAN
COUNTRIES.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PARIS15426
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770187-0189
Format: TEL
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770519/aaaaaqix.tel
Line Count: 201
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5d54498a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2373562
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOREIGN MINISTER GUIRINGAUD INTERVIEW IN LE FIGARO SUMMARY: LE FIGARO MAY 25 PUBLISHED INTERVIEW WITH
TAGS: SHUM, PFOR, US, FR, UR, XA, CSCE, (GUIRINGAUD, LOUIS DE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5d54498a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009